

APPENDIX D. ANNUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM TREATMENT REVIEW

Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Aspen Decline Management Response

Objectives of the Treatment Review

The treatment review is a monitoring method that provides documentation that treatments are implemented as planned. The treatment review, combined with monitoring results and research findings, is intended to provide feedback to forest managers about how to best design and implement future treatments in the treatment area. The results of this monitoring, in conjunction with best available science, will identify relevant improvements to procedures or exemplary practices to benefit future treatments authorized by the SBEADMR record of decision (See Figure 1).

Focus of the Treatment Review

Implementation of the treatments described in the silvicultural prescription matrix (Appendix A) will be conducted in conjunction with the use of the design features described in the EIS (Appendix B) and identified in the Treatment Design Checklist (Appendix C). This will ensure that treatments are designed and implemented according to the assumptions described and disclosed in the EIS.

Prior to treatment review, the GMUG will monitor the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands¹. The monitoring procedures, personnel, timing, and tracking are explained in the Best Management Practices Protocols and Evaluation forms². The focus of this monitoring is documentation of the use of soil and water BMPs on a treatment.

Treatment reviews will also document that additional appropriate design features were selected and implemented in accordance with Forest Service standards or design specifications. They will

¹ National Best management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands
http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/watershed/FS_National_Core_BMPs_April2012.pdf

² BMP Monitoring Protocols and Forms http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/wfw/watershed/national_bmps/bmp_docs-vegetation.html

also document if the design features were, in a readily observable way, effective. These reviews, completed by interdisciplinary teams of resource specialists, will be completed when the BMP evaluations are completed.

Findings from the treatment reviews can also be a mechanism to complete year-end reporting to regulatory agencies. For example, one of the design features for Canada lynx is to protect high quality habitat (greater than 35% dense horizontal cover) in the form of live advanced regeneration in blocks of 0.3 acres or larger. Treatment reviews will determine if this feature was followed and, in a readily observable way, was it effective. The validation of adherence with standards and guidelines in the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment, EIS analysis assumptions, and other information pertinent to effects of activities on listed or proposed species will be reported to the US Fish and Wildlife Service on an annual basis.

Avoidance and protection of archeological resources is another reporting requirement. If a treatment review indicates a particular treatment did not follow a design feature, the report to the regulatory agency will include “corrective actions” to bring the Forest Service back into compliance. Most of the time, this will be an administrative fix (for example, working with the sale administrator to ensure archeological resources are flagged before ground disturbing activities occur). Findings will be reported to the State Historic Preservation Office as required by the GMUG Programmatic Agreement³.

Results from treatment reviews will be part of annual reporting to the Forest Leadership Team for the Management Review. The Management Review could result in changes to design features to make them more effective or additional features could be added if needed. Management review could also identify additional monitoring measures that may be needed.

Management Reviews will also consider new best available science, changes in agency policy or direction, or changed conditions (such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service listing a species as threatened or endangered), and determine whether those changes warrant modified design features or modifications to treatment planning or implementation. The GMUG NF has partnered with the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) whose role is to keep the Forest abreast to changes in the science related to spruce and aspen ecology and management. The RMRS will also complete administrative studies as needed to address monitoring questions beyond the scope of those normally addressed by Forest Service managers (GMUG Informal Agreement, 2015).

In some cases, changed conditions may bring into question whether the scope and range of effects disclosed in this analysis are exceeded. Typically, a change in a design feature making it more

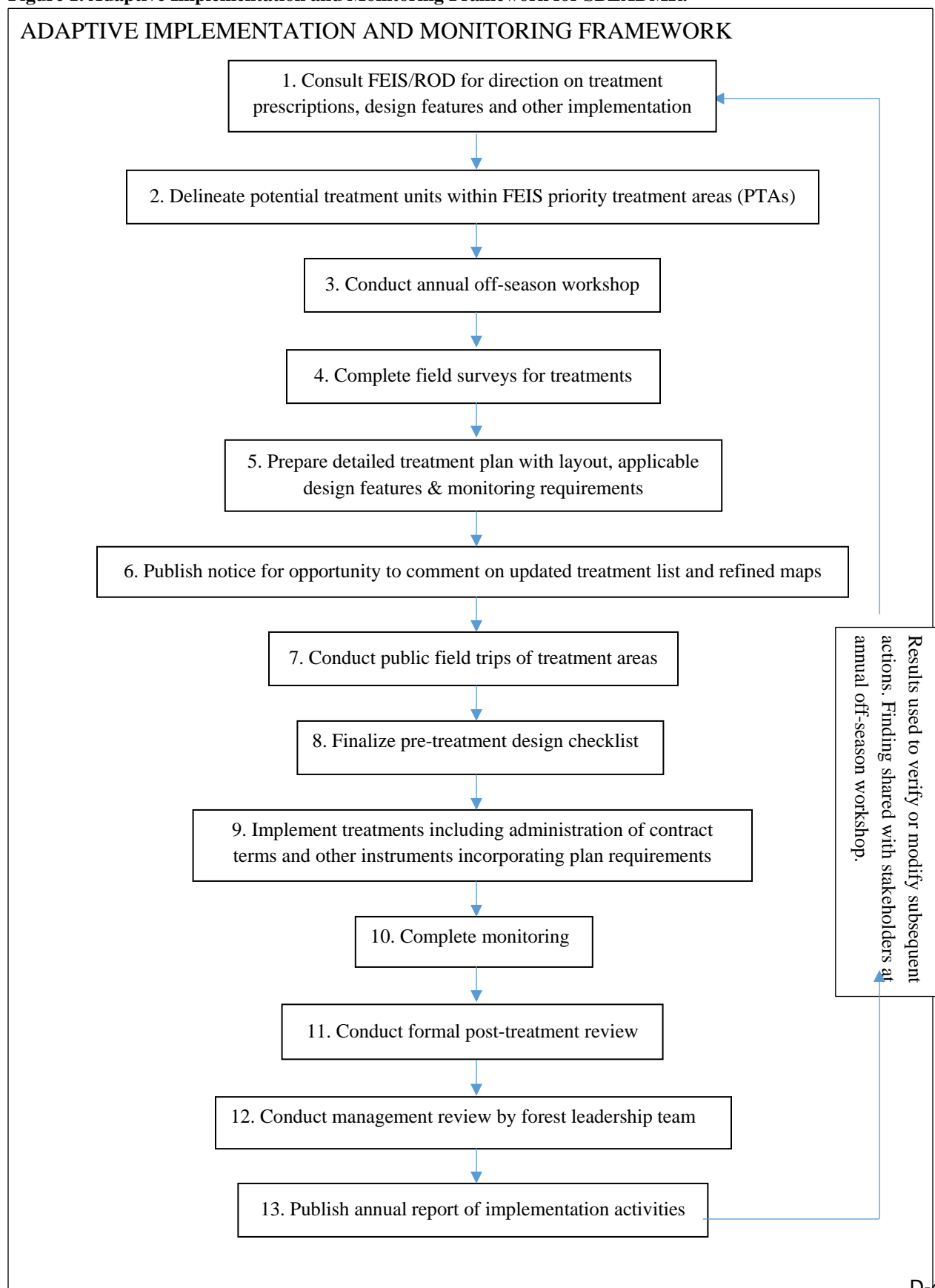
³ Programmatic agreement between the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office and the Forest Service. A Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act, as Amended, [NHPA]) Notification will be initiated under the Colorado National Forests Bark Beetle Programmatic Agreement (PA)³ for the SBEADMR Project in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

effective in protecting resource values or achievement of a desired outcome falls within the scope and range of effects. Elimination of a design feature intended to minimize effects would likely be outside range and scope of the analysis. A change in assumptions analyzed in the EIS could also trigger a NEPA sufficiency review. For example, it was assumed that the level of impact to habitat supporting Canada lynx would stay within Forest-level caps identified in the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment (SRLA). These caps will be tracked over the life of the treatment, and if tracking indicates a pending exceedance in any given year, no additional treatment would be permitted until it is re-analyzed and additional consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service was completed. Substantive changes will require the Forest to undertake an interdisciplinary review of the sufficiency of the NEPA documentation prepared for this treatment. The review may show the information in the original decision is still valid, and is not in need of correction or supplement. However, if that review illustrates a need for a correction, supplement or revision to the original decision, then the specific process to correct, supplement, or revise the analysis would be used, as specified in FSH 1909.15(18.2).

If the Forest Leadership Team makes changes to design features, implementation checklists, or monitoring, whether through correction, supplement, or revision, those changes will be applied to all future treatments on the GMUG NF which are authorized by the record of decision for this analysis.

The figure below shows how treatment review fits into the implementation strategy.

Figure 1. Adaptive Implementation and Monitoring Framework for SBEADMR.



Treatment Selection and Review Team

One treatment will be selected from the group of treatments implemented on any given fiscal for review by an Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team).

At a minimum, the review team will include the District Ranger for the unit, the unit treatment lead, the treatment or sale administrator, and specialists from the treatment resource issue areas, e.g. silviculture, fuels, wildlife, aquatics, soils, hydrology, etc. The Forest SBEADMR coordinator should also participate in the review to ensure consistency throughout the life of the SBEADMR project.

The unit line officer will designate the review team leader.

Document Review

The treatment review process relies on existing Forest Service documents and records. As indicated in Table 1, the documents might vary depending on whether the treatment is a timber sale, stewardship contract, service contract, force account, burn plan, etc.

A document review is intended to be a fairly brief exercise (1/2 day per treatment). The document review will focus on the treatment implementation checklist, supporting documentation and the SBEADMR FEIS. Records completed by individuals overseeing treatment implementation (timber sale administrators, Force account supervisors, etc.) will also be reviewed. The team should review or be familiar with the treatment documents, but should rely upon the responsible or most knowledgeable team members to orient them to the treatment and documentation and explain 1) how design features were selected and 2) how design features were implemented on-the-ground.

The field review will focus on an identified subset of the applied design features. This subset may be chosen to maximize the learning opportunity and/or based on public interest. It will usually not be possible to review all prescribed design features in the field.

Things to consider when choosing design features to review and monitor in the field:

- Design features with readily observable evidence of their implementation
- Line officer concern
- Unconventional or experimental mitigations
- Design features specifically requested by the public or regulatory agencies
- Design features critical to environmental protection
- Design features related to the issues identified in the EIS or through pre-treatment field public field trips (see Appendix E).

Table 1 provides a list and description of the records that forests should consider during the document review of a treatment. During the document review, the review team will check the

documents listed for evidence that treatment identification and implementation reflected SBEADMR guidance. These documents should already be part of the treatment record and should remain on file in the forest-level file system.

The attached Treatment Information Forms will be completed during the document review. A Design Feature Score Card will be completed for each design feature reviewed in the field, as well as each monitoring item identified in the Treatment Design Checklist. A Treatment Summary Scorecard will provide quantitative metrics of compliance and effectiveness of SBEADMR implementation, but is not a substitute for data and information obtained from monitoring and research. Treatment reviews will be used in conjunction with both, as discussed above, to feedback into continued implementation of the SBEADMR project.

Table 1. Documents and Records for Use in SBEADMR Treatment Review

Process Step	Relevant Records	Stage of Review
COMPLIANCE <i>Monitoring conducted for general treatment design and implementation, all design features, and treatment-specific monitoring.</i>		
1. Treatment Implementation checklist completed (including surveys, documentation of Forest Plan compliance, detailed treatment plan, and identification of treatment-specific monitoring)	Treatment Design Checklist	Document Review
2. Were the design features identified in the implementation checklist incorporated in the treatment contract/force account instructions/burn plan objectives?	Treatment Design Checklist, Section 5	Document Review
	Silvicultural prescription (i.e., wildlife treatment, prescribed fire, etc.)	
	Layout/marketing instructions	

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Process Step	Relevant Records	Stage of Review
	<u>Contracts</u> : Timber sale contract or stewardship contract or service contract <u>Force Account Treatments</u> : Force account instructions	
3. Were the design features implemented on the ground?	<u>Timber contract</u> : Sale administrator's timber sale inspection reports <u>Service Contract</u> : Contracting Officer Representative's (COR's) daily diaries and inspection reports <u>Force Account</u> : Treatment leader's daily diaries and inspection reports	Document Review
4. Was identified treatment-specific monitoring conducted? (Secondary question: What did monitoring reveal?)	<u>Treatment Design Checklist</u> <u>Records of monitoring data</u>	Document Review
EFFECTIVENESS <i>Monitoring conducted for a subset of design features and for the use of BMPs for Water Quality Management.</i>		
1. Were the appropriate features applied given presence/absence of the resource concern?	Treatment Design Checklist, Section 5	Field Review
2. Were the design features, in a readily visible way, effective? If not, why not?		Field Review
3. Monitor use of the BMPs for Water Quality Management on NFS Lands		Field Review

Process Step	Relevant Records	Stage of Review
4. Are there recommended changes in design features of soil and water BMP's to make them more effective or implementable? Are there other recommendations related to implementation of the SBEADMR project needed to improve desired outcomes?		Field Review

Field Review

Based on the document review, the team will select which design features to further review in the field, along with the associated activity units, roads, landings, or other components of the treatment.

The Interdisciplinary Team should be plan a full day in the field for each treatment to allow for interdisciplinary discussion. In some cases, individual ID Team members may spend 1 to 2 days prior to the formal Team review to acquaint themselves with the treatment. The emphasis is on documenting readily observable evidence of the implementation of the prescribed design features. Consideration should be given whether or not the design features were implemented in accordance with Forest Service specifications or practices and are effective in achieving the desired outcomes (e.g. water bars were constructed on a skid trail in accordance with contract specifications and are effective in draining water from the trail and thus preventing surface erosion). If warranted, recommendations to modify a design feature to make it more effective or implementable should also be provided.

The Design Feature Score Card will be completed during the field review.

Stakeholder Involvement

Once the Forest ID Team has completed their review of a treatment, the Line Officer upon whose District the treatment resides will invite interested publics to a day in the field to review the findings of the ID Team. Typically this will occur within 1 month of the formal ID Team review. Public review will include ID Team recommendations for corrective actions if needed. Public input related to the treatment design and outcomes will also be sought for summarization to Forest Leadership Team (FLT) during the annual Management Review. Changes agreed upon by FLT will be posted to the Forest website and will be applied to all subsequent treatments implemented under the SBEADMR Record of Decision.

Records Management

Completed Treatment Information Forms and Score Cards will be filed with the SBEADMR project leader at the Supervisor's Office. The project leader will also tally the scores for all the design features reviewed on Treatment Summary Score Card. Completed forms generated from the National Best Management Practices Review will be entered into the database of record and a summary provided to the SBEADMR treatment lead.

As noted above, the SBEADMR project leader will use these materials to prepare an annual report on SBEADMR implementation, in combination with additional treatment monitoring results and/or research findings.

In addition to the results of the ID Team treatment reviews, the following information will be summarized in a report to the Forest Leadership Team. This additional information is required by regulatory agencies such as State Historic Preservation Office and Fish, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service or other regulatory requirements.

- Evidence that cultural resource sites were protected in accordance with the GMUG PA.
- Evidence that applicable standards and guidelines in the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment (SRLA) were followed. If a guideline was not followed, provide rationale why the guideline could not be followed.
- Reporting requirements contained in the SBEADMR Biological Opinion.
- Other regulatory requirements identified on the Treatment Design Checklist.

A final report summarizing findings from the document and filed reviews, including any corrective actions taken by the FLT, will be posted on the Forest website annually. Any reporting required by the Programmatic Agreement between the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office or Fish and Wildlife under the SRLA or SBEADMR Project BO will also be completed and submitted on an annual basis.

SBEADMR Treatment Information Form

District: _____

Treatment Name: _____

Total Acres Treated: _____ Legal Location: _____

Implementation Document Type: (Circle one) Timber Contract /Stewardship/Service Contract/Force Account)

Date Treatment Design Checklist was approved by the Line Officer: _____

Dates of Review: _____

Review Team

Enter the names and position titles of all the review team members.

Name	Position/Specialty
	Project Leader
	Line Officer or Designee
	Hydrologist/soil scientist
	Wildlife Biologist
	Archeologist
	Recreation Specialist
	Timber Management Assistant
	SPEADMR Team Leader

Treatment-level Review - Step 1

Forest Plan Conformance

Is adequate justification provided on the Treatment Design Checklist indicating adherence with Forest Plan direction? Did project review support this conclusion? Why or why not?

Overall Rating for Step 1⁴ Justification documenting adherence to Forest Plan exists on the Treatment Design Checklist and was validated in the field = _____.

⁴ 3 – Full evidence of Forest Plan Conformance.

2 – Partial evidence of Forest Plan Conformance.

1 – Insufficient evidence of Forest Plan Conformance.

TREATMENT-LEVEL REVIEW – STEP 2

Design Feature Implementation

Were design features applicable to the treatment identified on the treatment design checklist and incorporated into the mechanism used to implement the treatment (timber sale contract, burn plan, force account direction, etc)?

Is there evidence that design features were implemented as designed (evidence may include field verification or documented in administration records for the project)?

If not, was rationale provided why the design feature could not be implemented (e.g. Sale Administrator could not implement specified design features but coordinated with District Biologist to implement measures with an acceptable level of impact)?

Overall Rating for Step 2 ⁵ “Were required design features identified and implemented?” = ____

Instructions for Reviewing Design Features

Only design features selected for review need be recorded. See suggested criteria under document review, above. Use a new form for each design feature reviewed. (See table below).

Row 1 – Describe the design feature and the year the work was completed on the ground.

⁵ 3 - Full evidence that applicable design features were identified and implemented.

2 - Partial evidence that applicable design features were identified and implemented.

1 - Insufficient evidence that applicable design features were identified and implemented.

Row 2 – Why was this design feature selected for review?

Row 3 and 4 Ratings – Provide the rating that represents the consensus of the review team for the question in each row. The rating score recognizes that this assessment is qualitative.

3 - Full evidence that design feature was implemented and, in a readily observable way, effective.

2 - Partial evidence that design feature was implemented and, in a readily observable way, effective.

1 - Insufficient evidence that design feature was implemented and/or it was ineffective to mitigate or eliminate an undesirable outcome.

Row 5 – If applicable to this design feature, is there evidence to support the assertion on the treatment design checklist of compliance with Forest Plan direction?

Row 6 – Record any additional observations. Use of photographs is encouraged. This could include any major problems noted with the design feature and/or any exemplary practices noted. For example, was there anything about how the design feature was planned or implemented that should be considered in future projects?

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Instructions for Reviewing Required Monitoring

Only monitoring identified on the Treatment Design Checklist and selected for review need be recorded. Use a new form for each Monitoring item reviewed. (See table below).

Row 1 – **Was the identified treatment-level monitoring completed?** Specify which resource required the monitoring and the duration and methods specified.

Row 2 - **Was the information used as intended by the resource requiring the monitoring?**

Specify how the data was used.

Use the following ratings:

3 - Full evidence that monitoring was completed as specified on Project Design Checklist AND data utilized as specified by the resource specialist.

2 - Partial evidence that monitoring was completed as specified on Project Design Checklist OR data partially utilized as specified by the resource specialist.

1 - Insufficient evidence monitoring was completed.

Design Feature Score Card

Project Name:			Design Feature Reviewed: ____ of ____
Row	Operational Control Step	Evidence Observed	Rating
1	Describe design feature, including year work was completed. <i>Identify Feature number from Appendix B of the EIS. If another standard Forest Service publication, give source.</i>		N/A
2	Reason selected for review.		N/A
3	Was the design feature implemented on the ground as planned? <i>Cite treatment activity units in which observations were made.</i>		
4	If implemented, was the design feature - in a readily observable way, effective?		

Project Name:			Design Feature Reviewed: ____ of ____
Row	Operational Control Step	Evidence Observed	Rating
5	If applicable to this design feature, is there evidence to support assertion on the treatment design checklist of compliance with Forest Plan direction?		N/A
6	Other observations or comments:		N/A

Monitoring Score-card

Project Name:			Monitoring Item Reviewed: ___ of ___
Row	Operational Control Step	Evidence Observed	Rating
1	Was the identified treatment-level monitoring completed? <i>Specify which resource required the monitoring and the duration and methods specified.</i>		
2	Was the information used as intended by the resource requiring the monitoring? <i>Specify how the data was used.</i>		
3	Document outcomes of the monitoring if available for summarization in the Management Review.		

Treatment Summary Score Card

District: _____

Treatment Name: _____

Scoring:

3 – Full Evidence

2 – Partial Evidence

1 – Insufficient Evidence

Treatment-Level Review	Step 1	Step 2
Forest Plan Compliance		
Design Feature Implementation		

Design Feature Review	Resource	Design Feature Number ¹	Row 3	Row 4
Design Feature 1 ²				
Design Feature 2				
Design Feature 3				
Design Feature 4				
Design Feature 5				
Design Feature 6				
Design Feature 7				
Design Feature 8				

Design Feature Review	Resource	Design Feature Number¹	Row 3	Row 4
Design Feature 9				
Design Feature 10				
Design Feature 11				
Design Feature 12				
Design Feature 13				
Design Feature 14				
Design Feature 15				

¹ Appendix B of the EIS provides a complete listing of design features and associated number. If additional standard Forest Service source was used, identify reference.

² Design feature # is keyed to the individual Design Feature Score Card

Monitoring Review	Resource	Row 2
Monitoring Item 1		
Monitoring Item 2		
Monitoring Item 3		

SAMPLE 1: SBEADMR TREATMENT INFORMATION FORM

District: Gunnison

Treatment Name: Example 1 Timber Sale

Total Acres Treated: 542 **Number of Treatment Units** 7

Implementation Document Type (Timber Contract/)

Dates of Review: June 18-19, 2016

Review Team

Enter the names and position titles of all the review team members.

Name	Position/Specialty
Drew Stroberg	Team Leader
John Murphy	Unit Line Officer
Clay Speas	SBEADMR Lead
Don Stump	Sale Administrator
Matt Vasquez	District Biologist
Beth Anderson	Soil and Water Program Lead
Justin Lawrence	Archeologist
Chad Wellman	Civil Engineer

SAMPLE 1: Design Feature Score Card

Treatment Name: Example 1 Timber Sale			Design Feature Reviewed: <u>1</u> of <u>2</u>
Row	Operational Control Step	Evidence Observed	Rating
1	Describe design feature, including year work was completed. Identify Feature number from Appendix B of the EIS. If another standard Forest Service publication, give source.	WFRP-11: Skid trails and landings will be located to minimize impacts to advanced regeneration.	N/A
2	Reason selected for review.	In order to maintain understory vegetation of sufficient quality to support snowshoe hares, areas supporting advanced regeneration need to be protected to the greatest extent practicable (SRLA requirement). In addition, minimizing effects to advanced regeneration ensure a future forest and reduces re-planting costs to achieve full stocking of treatment areas as required by National Forest Management Act.	N/A

Treatment Name: Example 1 Timber Sale			Design Feature Reviewed: <u>1</u> of <u>2</u>
Row	Operational Control Step	Evidence Observed	Rating
3	Was the design feature implemented on the ground as planned? <i>Cite treatment activity units in which observations were made.</i>	Sale administrator layout skid trails in treatment area to minimize impacts to the understory.	3
4	If implemented, was the design feature - in a readily observable way, effective?	It is readily evident that advanced regeneration was avoided during sale operations. The loggers did an excellent job resulting in limited impact to the understory. Incidental impact is estimated to be approximately 20-25% of a treatment unit as estimated in the FEIS.	3
5	If applicable to this design feature, is there evidence to support assertion on the treatment design checklist of compliance with Forest Plan direction?	Yes – Compliance with requirements of the SRLA and analysis assumption made in the FEIS.	N/A

Treatment Name: Example 1 Timber Sale			Design Feature Reviewed: <u>1</u> of <u>2</u>
Row	Operational Control Step	Evidence Observed	Rating
6	Other observations or comments:	(Would attach photo).	N/A

Sample 1 - Monitoring Score Card

Project Name: Example 1 Timber Sale			Monitoring Item Reviewed: <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>
Row	Operational Control Step	Evidence Observed	Rating
1	Was the identified treatment-level monitoring completed? <i>Specify which resource required the monitoring and the duration and methods specified.</i>	Yes – active goshawk nest located in treatment area. District biologist will visit the nest site each spring to document use by nesting birds.	N/A
2	Was the information used as intended by the resource requiring the monitoring? <i>Specify how the data was used.</i>	Yes. With no evidence of nest use, logging was allowed to continue under normal operating provisions.	3

Project Name: Example 1 Timber Sale			Monitoring Item Reviewed: <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>
Row	Operational Control Step	Evidence Observed	Rating
3	Document outcomes of the monitoring if available for summarization in the Management Review.	See above.	N/A

